

CALVIN NEFF ROUND BARN
PA Route 45
Centre Hall
Centre County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6736
PA-6736

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CALVIN NEFF ROUND BARN

HABS No. PA-6736

- Location: PA Route 45, Centre Hall, Centre County, Pennsylvania.
- Significance: The Calvin Neff Round Barn was built in 1910 by farmer Calvin Neff and carpenter Aaron Thomas. Round barn designs were promoted during the late nineteenth century for agricultural labor saving and efficient use of space.
- Description: The Calvin Neff round barn is eighty-eight feet in diameter and fifty-six feet high. It sits on a whitewashed limestone foundation and has board and batten siding on the first floor and thin clapboard siding on the second. The wood siding is painted red; door and window frames are painted white. It has a conical roof covered with cedar shingles. The roof is topped by a central cupola and has six front gable dormers. Radiating rafters and joists support the roof and floor.
- History: The round barn, a local landmark, was built in 1910 by carpenter Aaron Thomas. Farmer Calvin Neff had seen similar round barn structures while on a train trip in 1892. Starting in the late nineteenth century, this type of barn appeared sporadically in the Northeast and Midwest. It represents an interest in improved agricultural methods through labor saving design and efficient use of space.
- Source: Lu Donnelly, David Brumble and Franklin Toker. *Buildings of Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, forthcoming.
- Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian, 2006.
- Project Information: This short form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of western Pennsylvania for the *Buildings of Western Pennsylvania* publication, part of the *Buildings of the United States* series published by the Society of Architectural Historians and the University of Virginia Press. Large-format photography was sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey through a cooperative agreement with the Society of Architectural Historians. Historical information was provided to the HABS office prior to publication of the book.